

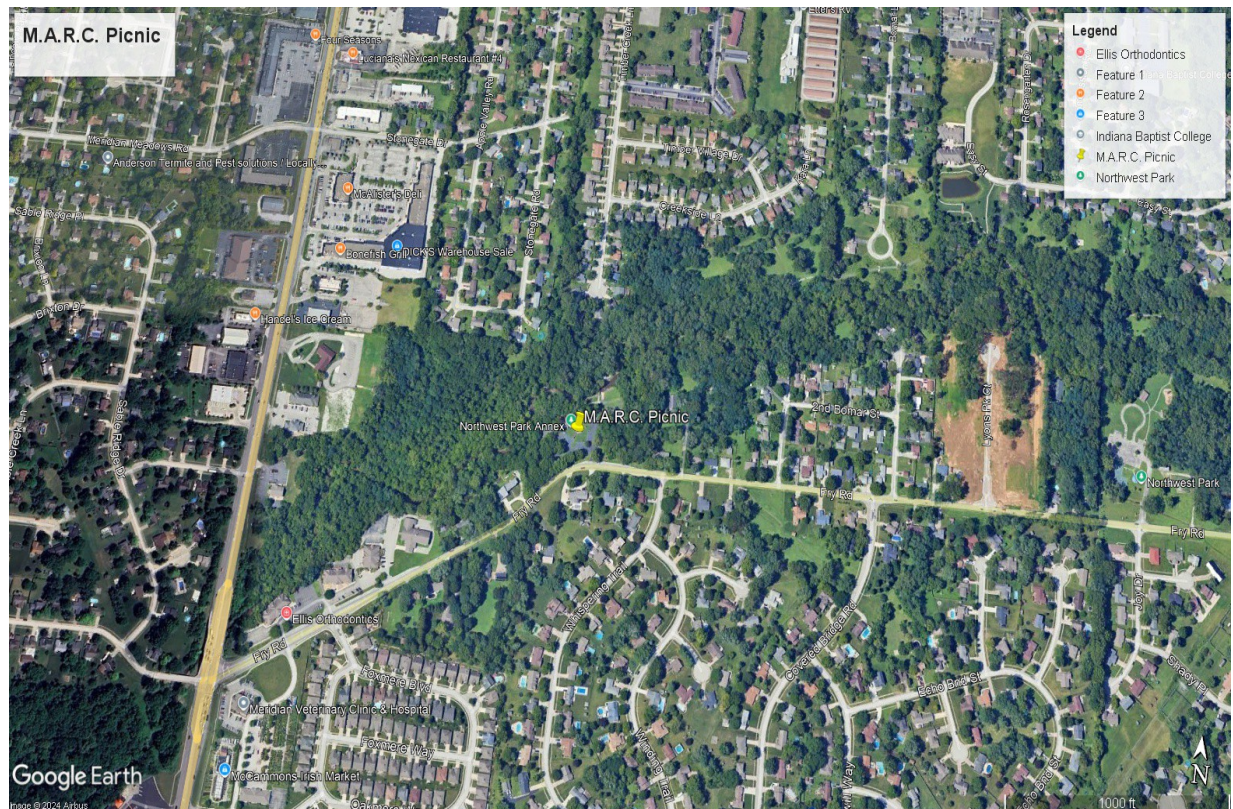


SPARK GAP

Vol. 41, Issue 9, September 2024 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

On Our MARC:

In lieu of a meeting in September, we will be having our Annual MARC picnic. The picnic will be held Saturday, September 21 at the shelter at Northwest Annex Park, 1576 W. Fry Rd, Greenwood. We plan to start at approximately 11am. Please bring a lawn chair for each person attending and a dish to share. Water and lemonade will be provided for beverages. If you prefer some other beverage, please plan to bring your preferred beverage (the park does not allow alcoholic beverages). The club will also be providing the Hamburgers, Hotdogs, and buns.





Birthdays for the month of September:

***K0EMT – Bryan Nehl
KD9RUD – Ellen Brock
KD9RUE – Gordon Brock
N9LXZ – Keath Rhymer***

Opinion: Net Managers – Want to Recruit and Retain More Check-ins? Do This!

What's the first thing a radio amateur wants to know when he/she gets on the air? Well, I know what my first interest is, whether in QSO or on a regional phone net – it's *how strong is my signal?* I dare say that it is every ham's first interest.

Pro Tip: For net managers eager to bolster their net's roster of regular check-ins, have your net control stations (NCS) give a simple, two-character signal report when acknowledging checking-in stations. For example: Net Control of the North Florida ARES Net on 40 meters calls for check-ins. A station calls to check in, giving his/her call sign. Net Control acknowledges the station as follows: "K1CE, S7." Thus, in a split second, not wasting any of the net's time, the check-in knows that his signal strength is pretty good at the NCS end. (For FM repeater nets, the NCS could give the checking-in station a signal report as a degree of quieting: e.g., "N5CBP, 90%Q").

Personal note: I check into my daily net Rota with just 5 or 10 watts RF output. It's important, and significant in a disaster situation, to know that I can make it into the net on QRP. (Plus, it just plain satisfies the innate interest in all of us to know how strong our signal is!)

So, if you're a net manager or net control station, and want to entice newcomers or recover previous members who might have lost interest in your net, give this simple, efficient signal report protocol a try! – *Rick Palm, K1CE* [Comments? Please send them to k1ce@arrl.net – thanks!]

Weather Observations

by KC9NJM

Hello all and Happy Fall!

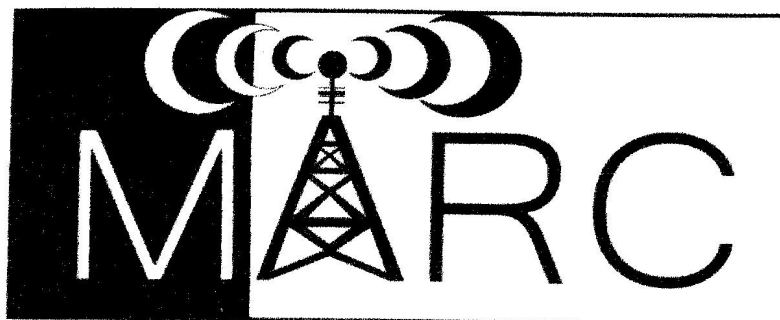
If my greeting had you looking at your calendars, scratching your heads, and saying, "Wait, fall doesn't begin until Sunday, Sept. 22nd!" you would be right; at least in terms of astronomical fall. But did you know that for those in the weather business, meteorological fall actually began on Sept. 1? Why the difference?

The autumnal equinox for the northern hemisphere marks that day when the sun is directly over the equator and rises in the true east and sets in the true west. The catch is that because the earth is tilted on its axis, its orbit around the sun is elliptical, and because we adjust the calendar with leap years, astronomical fall can occur between Sept. 21 and 23. That variation and the variations of the other astronomical seasons made it difficult to keep comparable statistical information about the weather.

In the 1900s the weather community began to use consistent, quarterly, divisions of the calendar to record and report seasonal data. Meteorological fall begins Sept. 1, winter begins Dec. 1, spring begins March 1, and summer on June 1, each year. While the quarters are not of perfect length with each other, they are consistent from one year to the next (except in leap years). This standardization makes the comparison of things such as the number of days of rain, temperature highs and lows, and other statistics more relatable from year to year.

So, armed with this information, you will be prepared to wish everyone Happy Winter on the first day of December! And yes, they will look at you and scratch their heads. And we haven't even gotten to the solar seasons yet!

Sources: NOAA Centers for Environmental Information; AccuWeather; NJ.com



Emergency Prep Kit Checklist

It's hard to think clearly during an emergency, and the last thing you want to do is leave something important behind. Use this checklist to gather essential items and prepare today for what might happen tomorrow.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, HAVE THESE ITEMS READY

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food and Water
A 3-day supply of water and food. Include 1 gallon of water per person per day and non-perishable food items like energy bars, cereal, dried fruit, nuts, peanut butter, and canned meats. | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit
Sterile gloves and dressings, bandages, soap, antibacterial towels, hand sanitizer, burn ointment, antibiotic ointment, eye wash, and a thermometer. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utensils
Eating utensils, plates, cups, bowls, a can opener, and paper towels. | <input type="checkbox"/> Medications
A 3-day supply of prescription medications, pain relievers, cold and sinus relief, anti-diarrhea medicine, antacids, and laxatives. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing
A change of clothes for each person, rain gear, extra shoes, and waterproof boots. | <input type="checkbox"/> Devices
A cell phone, a charging cord, a portable charger or battery pack, a hand-crank radio, an LED flashlight with extra batteries, and a headlamp. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day-to-Day Living Items
Garbage bags, toilet paper, matches in a waterproof container, a multipurpose tool, dust masks, duct tape, plastic sheeting, Mylar® blankets, a whistle, local maps, and bleach. | <input type="checkbox"/> Important Documents
Copies of birth certificates, driver's licenses, insurance cards, medication lists, medical records, proofs of address, passports, wills, bank records, marriage licenses, adoption papers, and emergency contact lists. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Items
Toiletries, an extra pair of glasses/contact lenses, tweezers, and nail clippers. | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash
Small denominations and change. |

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- ☐ **For Babies**
Diapers, baby wipes, baby powder, diaper rash cream, baby wash and lotion, formula, baby food, bottles, bibs, burp rags, pacifiers, teething tablets or gel, and blankets.
- ☐ **For Seniors**
Medications, hearing aids and batteries, extra eyeglasses, syringes, portable oxygen, mobility supplies, and contact information for doctors and caregivers.
- ☐ **For Children**
Books, toys, puzzles, crayons, and comfort items.
- ☐ **Ham Radio Gear**
A handheld, a mobile radio, chargers, extra batteries, antennas, power cords, and a laptop.



To All MARC Members,

Usually, at this time of year, you might be expecting a ballot to vote for Mid-State Amateur Radio Club Officers for the next term. If you attended the August MARC Monthly Meeting on Saturday, August 17 or you have reviewed the Meeting Minutes on the MARC website, then you already know that the current Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Trustee were all seeking re-election and that no nominations were received to oppose an Officer in any position. Therefore, there will be no ballot needed this year.

From the meeting minutes:

“Officer elections are held in September each year. MARC members Mike Turner NV9I and Wilson Low KD9FBC have agreed to serve as Tellers. Art Bleicher WB9CHR, serving on the Nominating Committee with Jack Parker W8ISH, gave his report on nominations. The current Officers all confirmed their willingness to continue to serve in their positions. No other nominations have been received and no nominations were received from the floor.

“Keith Cahoon K9PDI moved to close nominations and Noel Mortier W9NMM seconded the motion. There was discussion of volunteer involvement and Kyle Burns AD9CR suggested that we might look at creating two Board-level Director-At-Large positions. This would involve a Bylaws change. After discussion, the motion on the floor was passed.

“Dave Daily KB9LOT then moved to accept the current Officers for the following term. Seconded by Mike Rose KC9WLR. Motion Passed.”

If you have any questions or concerns, please send a comment to the Officers at marcboard@midstatehams.org.

See you at the picnic on September 21 beginning at 11:00 AM at Greenwood's Northwest Park Annex.

73,
KB9JMU
Jim

Secretary & Webmaster
Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
Johnson County, IN

-JKA



Volunteers for the Greenwood Community Band Festival for 2024

I would like to thank the volunteers for this years Greenwood Community Band Festival. It was a hot day but we stayed with it until about 4:00 PM. The band festival was a success with a total of nine bands playing at Surina Community Center Amphitheater in Greenwood.

Attendance was down a little this year and it could have been due to the 90 degree temperatures in the afternoon. We all kept hydrated and also received lunch from the Greenwood Community Band.

The Greenwood Community Band was the last band to perform and the Director Randy Greenwell thanked all the volunteers for helping. Randy also made an apology for not acknowledging MARC for all the years of helping with the event and being there for public safety. Randy stated that from now on MARC will appear in all programs as one of groups that support the Greater Greenwood Community Band.

..... N9SIU, Bob

INDIANA HAMFESTS 2024

Hoosier Hills Hamfest
Start Date: 10/12/2024
End Date: 10/12/2024
Location: Lawrence County 4-H Fairgrounds
11265 US-50
Bedford, IN 47421
Website: <https://hoosierhillshamfest.com/>
Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 146.73- PL/107.2
Public Contact: Tim Wray , KB9SNL
PO Box 891 Bedford, IN 47421
Phone: 812-675-6733
Email: bwrs1996@gmail.com



CLUB DUES FOR 2024

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is \$25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2024.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer



MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM** of each month
at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:

Offical SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Art Bleicher – WB9CHR
Club P.I.O. : Rhonda Curtis – WS9H

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
857 Lionshead Lane
Greenwood, Indiana
46143

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.



Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.